

HOUSE No. 385

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Robert F. Fennell

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to dress codes in public schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Robert F. Fennell	10th Essex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Thomas M. Stanley	9th Middlesex
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	16th Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 427 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO DRESS CODES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority*
2 *of the same, as follows*

3 SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is
4 hereby amended by striking Section 83 and inserting in place thereof the following section:—
5 Section 83. School officials shall not abridge the rights of students as to personal dress and
6 appearance except if such officials: a) determine that such personal dress and appearance violate
7 reasonable standards of health, safety and cleanliness or b) are acting in accordance with a code
8 of personal dress and appearance as authorized by the school committee of each city, town, or
9 regional school district after reasonable consultation with the school councils of each city, town
10 or regional school district; and c) only if said standards or code of personal dress and appearance
11 are defined and included in the official student handbook, or are distributed to each student and
12 his parent or guardian at the start of each school year, or upon enrollment, whichever occurs first.

SECTION 2. Section 86 of chapter 71 is amended by striking out the text in its entirety and inserting in
place thereof the following: — The provision of sections 83 to 85 shall apply only to municipal,
vocational and regional school districts that accept the same by a majority vote of the school committee,
or in the case of a charter school, by the board of trustees.